

# the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 ? (610) 326-2810 ? JANUARY 2006

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*“To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,  
and Outreaching Congregation.”*

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## **Sunday Schedule**

### **Worship**

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### **Coffee Fellowship**

9 a.m.

### **Children's Education**

10:45 a.m.

### **Adult Education Classes**

9:30 a.m.

### **Holy Communion Weekly**

.....

New Year's Day

### **Celebrating the Name of Jesus with Holy Communion**

One service only at 10 a.m.  
No Adult Education or Children's Church



## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Thursday**  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. - noon

### **TELEPHONE**

610-326-2810

Fax: 610-326-1025

[www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## **STAFF**

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson

e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)

home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg

e-mail: [srigg@thehill.org](mailto:srigg@thehill.org)

office 610-326-2810

home 610-970-4865

### **Secretary**

Pam Lloyd

e-mail: [plloyd@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:plloyd@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Organist and Choir Director**

Lincoln Noecker

e-mail: [lnoeck@comcast.net](mailto:lnoeck@comcast.net)

### **Verger**

Don Detweiler

e-mail:

[donalddetweiler1745@msn.com](mailto:donalddetweiler1745@msn.com)

### **Missionaries**

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson

Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dawn Detweiler

[newsletterstj@wi.rr.com](mailto:newsletterstj@wi.rr.com)

## **OFFICE NOTES**

### **Master Calendar / Room Scheduling**

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Pam in the office. She will post the event on the master calendar, in the weekly bulletin when applicable, and will directly inform those who should be told about the event.

Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, extra chairs or tables, etc. so she can tell Don Detweiler our verger.

### **Newsletter Deadline for November Edition: January 15, 2006**

Article submissions can be e-mailed to [newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org) or placed in the "newsletter" mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.

### **Catching Up On Offerings**

When you are unable to attend worship on any given Sunday, please make up that day's offering the next week. St. James' budget is based on members' weekly offering pledge times 52 Sundays. When you and your offering are absent, our ministry is diminished.

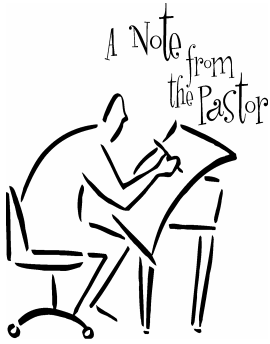
### **Office Closed**

**The church office will be closed on January 2.**



### **Snow Cancellations**

Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370) or call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.



## Keep a clear focus

On these cold and clear winter nights (when it's not snowing), one can look up into the sky and see so many stars. Some are more distinct than others and some of the very bright ones, my wife tells me, are not actually stars but are planets. Every now and then I will spot one that seems to be moving at a slow pace. It turns out to be an airplane. Its easy to be fooled and if you stare long enough, you can get mesmerized as the whole sky seems to blend into a countless cosmic field of lights.

On January 6, 2006 the church notes what is called 'the Epiphany' which celebrates God made known to us in Jesus Christ. In the bible story of Matthew, the wise men follow a certain star that leads them to the Savior child. How they knew which star to follow and keep their eye on is beyond me, but they must have focused on just that one important star to have been able to join with Jesus and give their gifts.

As we begin to get back to "normal" life after the Christmas season, during Epiphany, we still marvel at the miracle of God coming to be with us. But now we too are summoned to follow that same Jesus, who once laid under the star those magi followed. With so many countless distractions in our world and our lives, it can be a challenge for us to focus on the one true light from God. There are so many other things (although they are false lights) that draw our focus. It is easy to be fooled and if we are not careful, we can lose

sight of the one true light of the world.

And so may we have the wisdom to concentrate our attention on *the* star that is the light of Jesus Christ and be like the wise men and keep our sights on the right one, and thereby give him the gift of our attention and devotion.

PASTOR

## New Adult Education Study: Questions of Faith Beginning January 15, 2006

Throughout life, we find ourselves face to face with basic questions of belief and meaning. Sometimes we outgrow our answers. We may even decide the questions themselves don't really matter any longer. This series presents a variety of contemporary thinkers through video giving their responses to a series of questions.

1. Who is God?
2. What good is prayer?
3. What's good got to do with evil?
4. What's being good good for?
5. Who needs organized religion?
6. What matters anyway?



If you find yourself struggling with any of these questions or would like to know what others have to say about these questions, please **join this class on January 15, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the Blue Room located on the lower level of Horn Hall.**

## WORSHIP NOTES

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### Congregational Meeting

On January 22, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. a congregational meeting will be held for the approval of the annual reports and the changes to the constitution. **There will be no Adult Education classes that morning.** In case of inclement weather the meeting will be held on January 29, 2006.



### Bible Study - the Book of Proverbs

We don't hear the book of Proverbs read in worship too often, and yet it may be one of the most quoted biblical books. If you'd like to learn more about what it says, who wrote it, and what it's purpose is for being in our bible, then please attend the upcoming ***Bible Study on the Book of Proverbs.***

There will be two meetings each week. One at the church to be held Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. starting on January 10th, and the second at Sanatoga Village on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. starting on January 12th. **The study runs for 7 weeks and will end right before the season of Lent.**

Please bring a friend if you wish (non members of St. James are more than welcomed). Besides that, you need only bring a bible and your questions. No previous knowledge of that book or the bible in general is necessary. Hope to see many of you there!



We had a wonderful Christmas celebration at our December's Rejoicing Spirits worship with almost 70 individuals in attendance. It was good to see so many regular Rejoicers in attendance as well as some new faces as we celebrated the birth of our Savior.

**Our next Rejoicing Sprits worship will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7 p.m.** As we start this new year we continue to ask for the congregation's support in this ministry. Your prayers and the service of those members who come each month to help with the different roles involved in doing this ministry have been so valuable and make it all possible along with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Please help us to continue to get the word out to those who would benefit from Rejoicing Spirits. Also remember that even though Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, please prayerfully consider joining us.

### Prayer List

If you have anyone who you would like to add to the prayer list, please us the yellow communication cards found in the pews or by contacting Suzanne Rigg at 610-970-4865.

## Commitment Sunday Final Totals

It's a new year, and based on your response to Commitment Sunday, exciting things will happen in 2006! A total of 110 responses, including 19 new commitments, were received with the amount totaling \$175,840. This is an increase of almost \$10,500 from 2005. Total pledge amount for Current Expenses is \$149,302; for Synod Benevolence is \$14,716; and for Building Maintenance is \$11,822.

**Thank you to everyone for prayerfully considering this response.** Our pledge is a formalization of our commitment to supporting ministry here at St. James, in our neighborhood, and in the world. Any questions or changes to your individual pledge should be directed to Pam in the Church Office.

## What Makes a Church Denomination Grow?

A Christian research group did a recent study of 28 Protestant denominations and found that 14 of them were growing and 14 were declining in members. Of the 14 that were growing, the study discovered that members gave three cents to overseas missions for every dollar members gave to their local church. Of the 14 declining denominations, those members gave less than one cent. The study concluded that **"Perhaps the key is that a sense of larger purpose, consistent with professed beliefs, is attractive to people."**



*\*source-Touchstone magazine, Dec. 2005*

## Third Sunday Offering January Recipient



### The Community Meal

This month's Third Sunday Offering will be benefiting the Community Meal. For more than twenty years St. James has been helping to prepare the community meals here in Pottstown. Currently the Community meals are organized by the Cluster Outreach Center and held at both the United Methodist Church and at First Presbyterian Church. This meal is provided to anyone who is in need of a hot and nutritious meal.

Under the direction of Susan Cameron, St. James prepares and serves the community meal 5-6 times a year, usually on the fourth Thursday of every-other-month. At each meal an average of 65 individuals are served and fed. **The 2006 schedule will appear in next month's newsletter.**

Volunteers help with this meal by preparing the food, serving it, cleaning up afterwards, picking up food and other supplies and donating desserts. On days that St. James sponsors the meal, approximately 14 volunteers from St. James can be seen actively making sure this meal is available to the community. Many of these volunteers have been helping with the meals for many years.

**This month please pray and consider helping our neighbors in Pottstown who, without the Community Meal program, may otherwise go hungry. Support these people in need and the members of St. James who assist and serve them. Consider giving the third Sunday of this month.**

## **Congratulations to St. James from ELCA**

*St. James received a letter this week from  
ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson which is  
excerpted below:*

During this past summer, the ELCA department for Research and Evaluation completed tabulation of the 2004 parochial reports received from ELCA congregations. According to the information you submitted on the parochial report, St. James was one of the top 125 ELCA congregations that submitted a significant portion of the 2004 mission support giving – based on percentage, and confirmed, communing and communicant membership- to the synod and the churchwide organization in order to carry out this church's mission. It gives me great joy to express my thanks to the members of your congregation for your leadership and generosity of all the baptized at St James Lutheran Church.

I know that the members of the congregation also give designated financial gifts to many ministries of this church in its local and global expressions. They are to be commended for their generosity through such designated and direct giving. But today, I want to thank them especially for the consistent and persistent attention to regular mission support giving – those undesignated monies that are sent to the synod and the churchwide partnership without any limitation or restriction imposed on their use.

Please know that your mission support contributions are "hands on" ministry that makes a difference. These contributions multiply the ministries we are able to do when mission support dollars from the congregation are combined with those from other congregations throughout this church.

Congratulations, and thanks again, for your mission support and generosity in 2004.

*Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA*



### **Some Easy Ways to be an Evangelist**

Not sure how to share your faith with others? Here are some easy things to do that may help you get started:

- Wear a cross and be surprised how many times this will start a conversation about faith.
- Send a card or note of encouragement and tell someone that you will pray for them.
- Model your Christian behavior when in public, at youth sporting events, in the supermarket and on the job.
- Speak out against evil, injustice and verbal insults.
- In talking about the weather or the beauty of creation, remember to note that God is the maker and controller of all things.
- Tell someone about a pleasant experience, good sermon or uplifting feeling that you had attending worship.
- Invite someone to come to that same worship service with you!

# DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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## Reports Due

All year-end committee and other reports are due into the Church Office **by Sunday, January 1, 2006.**

## Committee Night Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with devotions and meetings beginning at 7 p.m. All committees will reconvene at 8 p.m. to share any necessary communications. Committees meeting this month include: Evangelism, Fellowship, and Stewardship.

If you are not currently serving on a committee but are interested in learning more about what each committee does, please join us. Anyone willing to serve on a committee should talk to Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.

## SCRIP

Give yourself a round of applause!

**Thank you for your support** during the past decade and especially during the month of December 2005. We hope that if you shared the story of our program with those receiving your gifts, they enjoyed receiving just a little bit more knowing the gift actually helped someone in need of a meal.

We look forward to helping you every Sunday during 2006 in Horn Hall after the early service until the beginning of the second service! Special orders are possible at any point during the year.

## Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Bulletin Sponsorships



**Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall** for anyone who would like to sponsor the altar flowers, eternal light and/or bulletins. If you sponsored a particular week in 2005 you will need to sign up again for that week in 2006. No one automatically has the same week they had the previous year.

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table for the money or check. The envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or may be returned to the office.

**Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of March 5 - April 9). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time.**



## Attention!

Look out for the Senior High Youth Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale.

## Fair Trade Coffee

January 15, 2006

A reminder that the youth of St. James sponsor the sale of Fair Trade Coffee including decaf and flavored coffee, as well as tea on the third Sunday of each month.

## WELCA News

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** in Horn Hall WELCA will host a special presentation by Barry and Kass Moyer. This is in response to members "special request program" listing.

## RELAY FOR LIFE 2006

Thank you for your support of the Christmas goodie tables for the Relay. So far we have raised \$948 (as of 12/14) and we paid the tent off, so we are off to a good start. Thank you to Olga Christman, Bob & Tracie Rheel, and Carol Keller. All of our delicious cookies were made by members of the church. Thank you to Debbie Fisher, Marge Fegley, Mary Vickerman, Barb Ungerman, Laurie O'Connell, and Janis Lunn.

On Saturday, January 14th, the St. James team and the National Penn Bank team are hosting a **Tupperware Party from 2-4 p.m. in Horn Hall. Proceeds to benefit Relay.** Tickets are **\$5.00** a piece and refreshments will be served

Please see **Pat Baer or Mary Jane Bealer** for tickets and information. If you need Tupperware, but can't make it on that day, please let us know and we will give you order forms.



## Cluster Outreach Center

### CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Clothing Sorters – Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items. – Everyday during operating hours.

Food Pantry – There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort. – Friday mornings.

**If you would like to volunteer, contact the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995, or stop in at 137 Walnut Street, Pottstown.**

### Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, jelly, cereal, and canned tuna.

### Clothing & Household Needs:

Baby wipes, shampoo, lotion and powder, diapers size 4, 5, and 6, can openers, and women's socks and underwear.

### Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags and all sizes of Ziploc plastic bags. Also, paper towels and plastic grocery bags.

**Clothing and food donations accepted Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.**



# Health News

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

## **GOT 5 MINUTES? IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

*By Denise Mann from WebbMd Feature-*

*Reviewed by Marge Fegley*

In the time it takes to file or clip your nails, blow dry your hair or shave, you could instead be taking lifesaving steps and performing quick health checkups that can add years to your life.

*Here is a list of more tips, continued from last month's newsletter article...*

- **Track your height.** Most of us think we are the same height as when we graduated from high school and that is not true. If you are losing height talk to your doctor and see if you are at risk for osteoporosis.

- **Clean out your wallet.** Get rid of the clutter and make sure that your current valid health insurance card is inside. Have an updated list of the medications, vitamins, and herbs that you take listed along with the dates of your last tetanus shot and other immunizations. It is important to also write who to contact in case of an emergency. Having this information can save your life.

- **Do a once over of your medicine cabinet.** Make sure all medication lids are secured and toss outdated meds. Check that nothing needs to be refilled or renewed.

- **Make a health "to do" list.** Keep a record of when and what tests you have had and know when you are next due. Keep the list where you can easily check it.

## **BLOOD DRIVE INFO**

**Monday, January 9, 2006 from 2 - 7 p.m.** is our Miller-Keystone blood drive. Please call Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to schedule an appointment to donate. Remember that donating one pint of blood helps three people.

## **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

Blood pressures will be taken on January 1<sup>st</sup> after worship.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

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### **Address Change**

Edmond Gallino  
P.O. Box 548  
Frederick, PA 19435

Alice Schindler called to tell us that she misses everyone very much. You can write to her or send her a card at:

1540 Live Oak Drive  
Silver Springs, MD 20910



### **Baptisms**

We welcome into the Lord's family:

**Kathryn Jane Fetterman**, daughter of Marcy and Terry Fetterman, baptized November 20, 2005.

**Justin Andrew Stine**, son of Audrey and Chris Stine, baptized December 4, 2005.

## THANK YOU NOTES

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Pastor and Debbie would like to thank everyone for the beautiful Christmas cards and thoughtful gifts that many of you sent to us over the Christmas season. It gives us great joy to feel the love and appreciation that has been expressed in your kindness towards us. Thank you again and may Christ's spirit of sharing love and giving to others carry over in all that we do in the year to come here at St. James. God's blessings to you.

I would like to thank Rev. Hutchinson for the beautiful service at the funeral of my husband Lloyd and for the beautiful cards and prayers that were extended to me. It gave me strength thru these difficult times. In God's name,  
Iva Trate

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas.

Thank you to all who helped to bring some joy to our shut-ins by Christmas Caroling on December 18.

Thank you to Shira Schaeffer, Jackie Bealer, Carol Keller, Pat Weber and Alyssa Hartzman for helping to make the angel ornaments for Rejoicing Spirits and for the shut-ins.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for hosting the luncheon on December 18.

Garnet Nye thanks the staff and friends of St. James for their help and support over this past year.

Thank you to the youth of St. James for baking cookies for Rejoicing Spirits. The cookies were yummy!!

Thanks to all who helped with the fellowship time following the Rejoicing Spirits worship in December. The decorations were lovely and the food and drink were delicious.

Thank you to all who helped with the Salvation Army bucket collection and bell ringing at Boscov's in December.

Thank you to Tracie Rheel for making the Christmas banner inviting all to come and worship and to Larry Wert for hanging the banner.

The Salvation Army extends its sincere gratitude to St. James for its generous response to the Christmas Angel program. Thank you to all who donated gifts and made this program a success.

### January Birthdays

1 – Candy Koons; 2 – Suzanne Rigg; 3 - Kirk Detweiler, Pam Evans; 4 – Annette Renn; 5 – Susan Cameron; 6 – Bob Wagner; 8 – Kerri Smith; 9 – Bradley Mazurek; 10 – Ginny Kerr, Wayne Kreider, David Miller, Jr.; 11 – George Neiffer; 13 – Susan Cocci, Janet Kenney, Nathan Strichik; 14 – Esther Garner, Jack Gunter, Daniel Hutchinson, Bill Mauger; 16 – Kristin Mitchell; 17 – Willard Bickel; 18 – Dawn Detweiler; 20 – Pete Compton, Ray Henninger, Maria Marchozzi; 21 – Don Weller; 23 – Velma James; 24 – Ron Fritz; 27 – Jack Dilks, Irene Dilks; 28 – Melinda Mace; 30 – Mindy DuVal, Larry Kehler, Chrissy Lamberton; 31 – Austin Rothenberaer. Rose Waaner



# CHURCH COUNCIL

*Council highlights from the meeting held  
November 16, 2005*

- Discussed and approved personnel issues relating to the secretary, verger and organist and choir director
- Approved the six members of the Endowment Committee for three-year terms.
- Approved the proposed budget for 2006.
- Discussed and decided to eliminate the Advent Shut-in Luncheon and Worship due to fact that Thrivent is no longer underwriting the luncheon and shut-ins have not been in attendance.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>NOV 2005</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$22,026.24	\$241,621.78
Expenses	<u>23,733.33</u>	<u>268,334.84</u>
Net Income	(\$ 1,707.09)	(\$ 26,713.06)

### REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$15,993.22	\$190,506.44
Needed*	<u>19,811.59</u>	<u>217,927.49</u>
Over (Under)	(\$3,818.37)	(\$27,421.05)

### THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

Collected \$ 342.00

Beneficiary *Lutheran World Relief –  
South Asia Earthquake*

\*Each month includes \$16,958 pledged and \$2,853 needed growth to balance the budget.

## COUNCIL MEMBER LIST

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or a suggestion that might help the church, you may contact one of the following elected Council people:

**John Ungerman** 610-718-9368  
Email: john.Ungerman@thrivent.com

**Sherry Clancy** 610-323-5977  
Email: srclancy@alumni.moravian.edu

**Dave Garner** 610-970-7560  
Email: dffarner@comcast.net

**Alison O'Donnell** 610-779-1119  
Email: Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com

**Dottie Smith** 610-323-8226  
Email: dotbonken@att.net

**Pat Weber** 610-326-5421

**Jeff Leiby** 610-327-9454  
Email: jefnrobn@yahoo.com

**Mary Arnt** 610-323-6176

**David Hartzman** 610-909-5806  
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

**Tracie Rheel** 610-323-7051  
Email: tar403@yahoo.com

**Ron Schafer** 610-326-4814  
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

**Chipper Meadowcroft** 610-327-0458  
Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

**Jessica Mitchell** 610-970-4250  
Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

## ***What is all this in the news about Stem Cell Research?***

***Submitted by Pastor***

You have likely read about the debate surrounding this subject. If you are wondering what is at issue, here is some information about the matter.

A stem cell is essentially a blank cell which is capable of becoming a different cell in the body, such as a skin cell, a muscle cell or a nerve cell. They are deemed important because they can be used to replace or heal damaged tissues or cells in the body. Many have advocated research on and the use of stem cells to help find cures or relief for disease, illness, and injury. But there are two broad classes of stem cells; the embryonic type (taken from fertilized embryos) and the adult type (taken from umbilical cord stem cells, placenta stem cells and adult stem cells from various parts of the human body).

Many believe that embryonic stem cells have the potential of certain advantages over adult cells in that they appear to be capable of being made into any kind of “repairing” cell that might be needed. Advocates of doing research on embryonic cells also say that, unlike the adult cells, the embryonic type can potentially provide an endless supply of cells created with defined characteristics. To derive these cells from a fertilized embryo, would mean that the embryo would be destroyed.

Those opposed to the use of the embryonic cells argue that once an egg is fertilized, that a life has begun and therefore should not be destroyed for scientific research, even if such cells can be used for good medical purpose. They state that the adult type of stem cells naturally exist in the body and that there is less chance of rejection from cells used which have been taken from the person’s own body. Opponents of using embryonic cells further state that adult cells have been used successfully for years in human therapies.

In some ways, this debate is similar to the public debate on abortion, and yet, some opposed to abortion do not oppose use of stem cells from embryos. As with most public issues, there are advantages and disadvantages on either side of the respective positions, and so we find Christian people of faith coming down on opposing sides.

“As Christian people, when we hear of public issues and matters of debate in the public forum, we are wise to consider how these issues might be considered by God, and how the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ compels us to think about such questions. We should always try to incorporate our faith and understanding of the scriptures into how we formulate our own positions on issues and how we might vote on such matters (or candidates who take positions on controversial subjects). As with most public issues, there are legitimate arguments derived from faith and an understanding of God’s will on either side of the respective positions on this subject. And so, as a result, many times we will find Christian people coming down on opposing sides of a subject. Whatever your position, let your explanation begin, not with; *“I think what I feel about this is...”*, but with *“I think what God feels about this is...”*”

## "How Our Hymns Came To Be"



*(This story comes from "Awake My Soul and Sing" compiled by Virginia J. Ruehlmann, a book donated by Don and Shirley Weller).*